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## **European Regional Master's Degree in Democracy and Human Rights in South East Europe**

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On 30 October 2010 twenty eight students graduated from the European Regional Master's Program in "Democracy and Human Rights in South East Europe" (ERMA) at the University of Sarajevo. The graduation ceremony took place in the Senate Hall of the University of Sarajevo Rectorate, and was attended by numerous national and foreign diplomats, professors of various universities, former and future students of the program, their friends, families and others. The ceremony was opened by the pro-rector of the University of Sarajevo **Mrs. Slavenka Vobornik**. The audience was then addressed by **Mr. Boris Iarochevitch** of the EU's delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Mr. Simone de Santi**, First Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Italy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the co-directors of the program professor **Stefano Bianchini** and professor **Zdravko Grebo**, ERMA faculty representative professor **Hans Joachim Heintze**, the Forli city councilor for culture and international relations **John Patrick Leech**, president of the Alumni Association from the Center for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies (ACIPS) **Sanel Huskić**, as well as the student representative of the 2009/2010 class **Sumeja Tulic**. This year's group of new students was also inaugurated at the ceremony.

The ERMA Program, which was established through the joint efforts of several universities from South East Europe and the European Union, is co-financed by the European Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Italy and is organized by the Center for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies of Sarajevo and the *Istituto per l'Europa Centro-Orientale and Balcanica*. So far over 250 students from South East Europe, the European Union and beyond, have graduated from this program. The program is divided into three terms: the first takes place at the University of Sarajevo where students attend lectures, the second consists of an internship, and the third is the thesis-writing period which takes place in Italy, at the residence of the University of Bologna. This year the 28 students from the 9th year stayed at a youth hostel in Santa Sofia (Forli) and also had the opportunity to visit the University of Bologna and attend the opening and closing ceremonies of the Cervia International Summer School organized by the *Istituto per l'Europa Centro-Orientale and Balcanica*.

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